

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:LAU-19 (PACS 1.24) Construction Date: circa 1925
Name: Fisher Building
Location: 150 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description:

The Fisher Building is a 2½-story, 5-bay commercial building on the east side of Washington Boulevard in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1925, the building is a massed plan with a 1-story gable-roof addition and a rear frame addition. The structure has a front-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles with a rear interior-end brick chimney. It is of wood-frame construction with a Flemish-bond brick veneer-facade and weatherboard and German-siding, and it has a parged foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash.

Significance:

The Fisher Building was constructed circa 1925 on a .33 hectare (.83 acre) parcel on the east side of Washington Boulevard which was purchased by Bernice and Elwood Fisher from George and Margaret McCeney. Effie Morrison received the property from the will of Bernice Fisher in 1931, and sold the building with 570 square meters (6133 square feet) to C. Philip and Hilda Lee Nicholson in 1946. The property was purchased by the Laurel Realty Company, Incorporated in 1965.

Maryland Historical TrustDOE ☐yes ☐no**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form****Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief****1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Fisher Building (preferred)

and/or common Laurel Realty Company, Incorporated

2. Location:

street & number 150 Washington Boulevard

n/a not for publication

city, town Laurel

___ vicinity of

congressional district

state

Maryland

county

Prince George's

3. Classification:**Category**☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object**Ownership**☐ public☒ private☐ both**Public Acquisition**☐ in process☐ being considered☒ not applicable**Status**☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress**Accessible**☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no**Present Use**☐ agriculture☒ commercial☐ education☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ transportation☐ museum☐ park☐ private☐ residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ other:**4. Owner of Property:** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Laurel Realty Company, Incorporated

street & number 150 Washington Boulevard

telephone no.:

city,town Laurel

state and zip code Maryland 20707

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County

liber 3118

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center

folio 336

city,town Upper Marlboro

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city,town

state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:LAU-19 (PACS 1.24)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 1

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Fisher Building is a 2½-story, 5-bay commercial building on the east side of Washington Boulevard in Laurel, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1925, the building is a massed plan with a 1-story gable-roof addition and a rear frame addition. The structure has a front-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles with a rear interior-end brick chimney. It is of wood-frame construction with a Flemish-bond brick-veneer facade and weatherboard and German-siding, and it has a parged foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash.

The west, or front elevation has been altered with a 1-story side-gable addition. There are two entrances on the first floor. The first is centered in the second bay of the main block. It has a broken-pediment surround with engaged fluted-pilasters. The second entrance is in the fifth bay, in the 1-story, side-gable addition and has an engaged-pilaster door surround. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical. The door on the main block is flanked by two bowed windows. The windows have center 8/8 double-hung windows with side 4/4 double-hung windows. The window in the fourth bay is a 20-light fixed window. The second story has two 8/8 double-hung windows flanking a smaller 6/6 double-hung window, all with fixed shutters. The gable is sheathed in weatherboards, and has paired 6/1 double-hung windows.

The south elevation is composed of the gable-end of the side addition, the main block, and the 1-story flat-roof rear addition. The wall of the side addition is covered in brick veneer, and there is a 1/1 double-hung window in the gable end and an interior-end brick chimney. The first story of the main block is covered in German-siding and has three 1/1 double-hung windows. The second story has paired 6/1 double-hung windows and a single 6/1 double-hung window. The rear addition has a concrete foundation and two 12-light windows with end casements.

The east or rear addition has been altered with the side-gable addition and the rear addition, which obscures the first floor of the main block. The side addition is covered in asbestos shingles on this elevation, and has a 1/1 double-hung window. The rear addition has a concrete foundation, is covered in weatherboard and is five bays wide. The entrance is centered. The fenestration on the addition is symmetrical, and there are three 12-light windows with end casements and a 6-light casement window. The rear of the main block is sheathed in German-siding. There is a door in the first bay of the second story, paired 1/1 double-hung windows, a 6/6 double-hung window, and a 2/2 double-hung window. There is a 6/6 double-hung window in the gable.

The north elevation is composed of the main block and the rear addition. There are three 6/1 double-hung windows on each story of the main block, located towards the front of the building. The rear addition has a 12-light window with end casements.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

The Fisher Building is located on the east side of Washington Boulevard, and is surrounded by commercial properties to the north and east, by a used-car dealership to the south, and by Washington Boulevard to the west. The setting is currently commercial, and remains relatively unchanged from the historic setting.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:LAU-19 (PACS 1.24)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
__prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion
__1400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science
__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture
__1600-1699	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	humanitarian
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__theater
X 1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__transportation
		__invention	__other (specify)	

Specific dates	circa 1925	Builder/Architect
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check: Applicable Criteria: __A__B__C__D
 and/or
Applicable Exceptions: __A__B__C__D__E__F__G

Level of Significance: __national__state__local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Fisher Building was constructed circa 1925 on a .33 hectare (.83 acre) parcel on the east side of Washington Boulevard which was purchased by Bernice and Elwood Fisher from George and Margaret McCeney. Effie Morrison received the property from the will of Bernice Fisher in 1931, and sold the building with 570 square meters (6133 square feet) to C. Philip and Hilda Lee Nicholson in 1946. The property was purchased by the Laurel Realty Company, Incorporated in 1965.

The Fisher Building is located in Laurel. Laurel is located on land originally patented to Richard Snowden in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in Prince George's County. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 1214 hectares (3000 acres) from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel, and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. The 1715 patent increased the already substantial Snowden land holdings, and later additions to Snowden land eventually covered 3749 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. (Cook 1976: 270-271).

The Snowden family had established a grist mill at Laurel about 1810. In 1824, the grist mill was adapted to spin cotton yarn that was shipped to textile mills. In 1835, the mill was converted back to a grist mill. Snowden family members and the O.C. Tiffany company of Baltimore established the Patuxent Cotton Manufacturing Company. Factory buildings were built along the river, and the town of Laurel developed as a manufacturing town along Main Street running between the factory and the B&O Railroad station (Prince George's County 1974: 283; Prince George's County Historical Society 1980: 37). Laurel became the largest town in the county. The textile mill provided the basis for Laurel's economy into the twentieth century. When textile output began to decline early in the century, Laurel began to develop as a suburb for both Washington and Baltimore. Located halfway between the two cities, Laurel was accessible to commuters by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and by U.S. 1 (Prince George's County 1974: 284).

The Fisher Building is an example of a two-part commercial block. In areas of high population density and commercial activity, substantial and function-specific commercial buildings were constructed. Common building compositions of suburban commercial property types include the two-part commercial block and one-part commercial block. Although these property types are most often found in urban settings, the core of suburban commercial centers can include such buildings.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Fisher Building

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-19 (PACS 1.24)

ADDRESS: 150 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

The two-part commercial block is the common type of commercial structures. The buildings are two to four stories tall and are horizontally divided into functions. The first floor services the general public as merchandise space or lobby space for a bank or hotel. The upper floors provide space for private offices, hotel rooms or residential units (Longstreth 1987, 24).

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1925, the Fisher Building is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a two-part commercial block which has been highly altered. The building has been altered with a pseudo-Colonial facade with Flemish-bond brick veneer, a pedimented door surround, and new 8/8 double-hung windows. There have been additions to the side and rear, and the fenestration pattern has been altered. The building no longer retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, or feeling. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended XX
 Comments _____

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature] Date: 9/2/99
 Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 9/7/99

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:LAU-19(PACS 1.24)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Laurel, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan L. Taylor

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date May 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Fisher Building

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-19 (PACS 1.24)

ADDRESS: 150 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Cook, William G. 1976. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Prince George's, Maryland. Reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society.
- Land Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- "The Laurel Factory." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 38-40. (First published in The American Farmer. Baltimore, Maryland, August 1845.)
- Liebs, Chester H. 1985. Mainstreet to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture. Boston: Little Brown & Co.
- Longstreth, Richard, ed. 1987. The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 1984. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Poe, Gertrude L. 1970. Laurel, Maryland: Centennial Souvenir Booklet. Laurel, Maryland: The News Leader.
- Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. 1974. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Virta, Alan. 1984. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1991. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.
- Virta, Alan. "The Pretty, Rosy-Cheeked Girls of Laurel." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 37.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Fisher Building

SURVEY NO.: PG:LAU-19 (PACS 1.24)

ADDRESS: 150 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Commerce

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Commercial

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

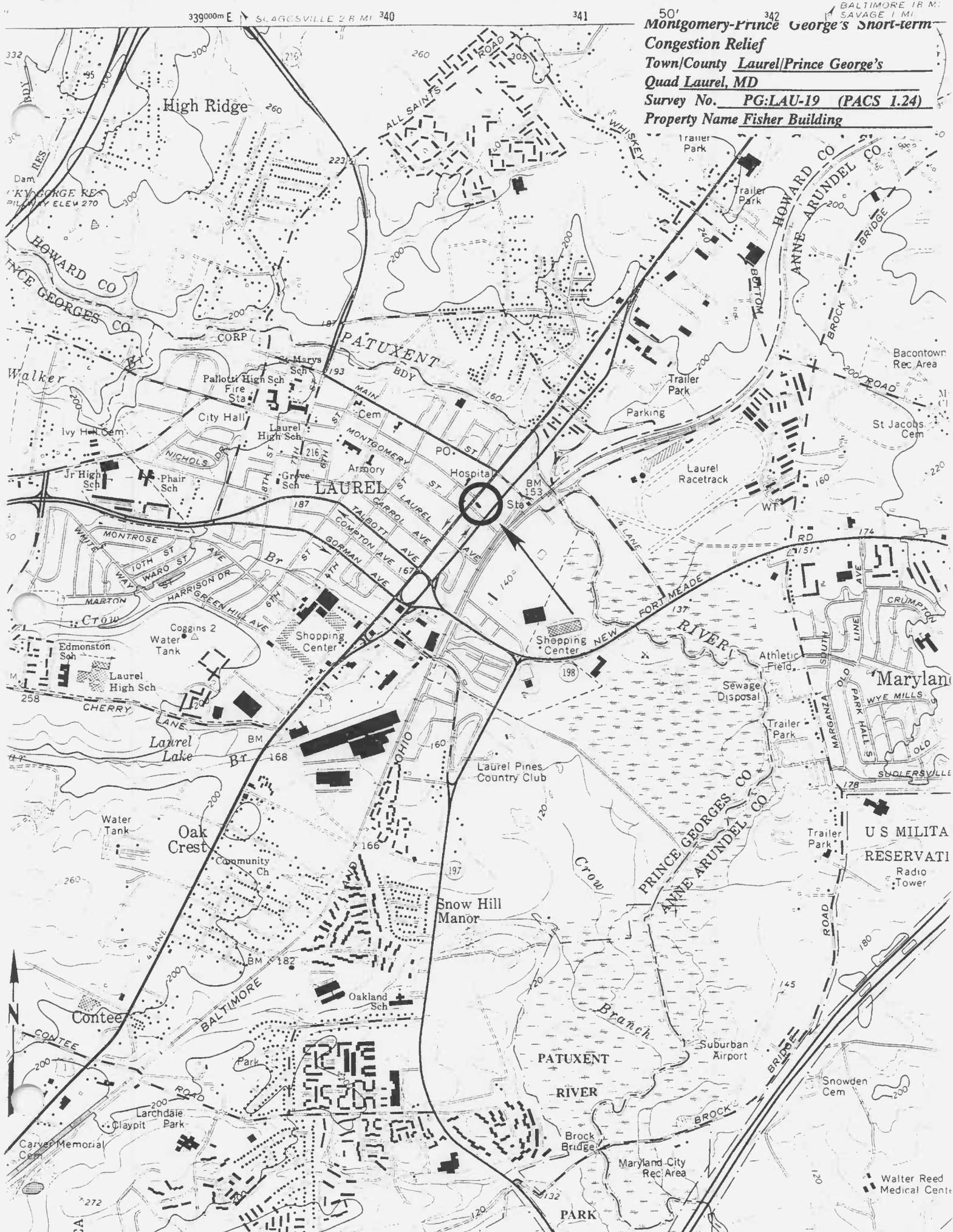
Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

339000m E SLACGSVILLE 2 R MI 340

341

50' 342
Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term
Congestion Relief
 Town/County Laurel/Prince George's
 Quad Laurel, MD
 Survey No. PG:LAU-19 (PACS 1.24)
 Property Name Fisher Building



U S MILITA
 RESERVATI
 Radio
 Tower

Walter Reed
 Medical Centre



1 PS: Lau-19

2 Fisher Building Property

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Wd STPO

7 NW corner

8 1 of 5



ING SUPPLY

ONE WAY

STOP

- 1 15 Jan - 19
- 2 Fisher Building Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 W. elevation
- 8 2 of 5

2004 Jan 12 PM 5:00



- 1 PG: Lau-19
- 2 Fisher Building Property
- 3 Prince George, Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 SW corner
- 8 3 of 5

SEARCHED _____



1 PG: - an - 19

2 L. H. Building Property

3 Prince George Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md GPO

7 SE corner

8 4 of 5

FRANKLIN 1820-1821



- 1 PG 2047
- 2 Fisher Building Property
- 3 Prince George Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 Elevation
- 8 5 of 5

7-11-11 12:57 PM